(c) A number of interventions to address the problem of undernutrition are already being implemented by the Government of India *viz.*, the national Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Nutrition Education Programmes of Department of Women and Child Development, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme of Department of Family Welfare, National IDD Control Programme of Department of Health, programmes for ensuring food security for the people by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Poverty Alleviation and Food for Work Programmes fo Ministry of Rural Development and Mid Day Meal scheme of Department of Education. It has been decided by the Government to set up a National Nutrition Mission under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister *vide* Notification publised in the Gazette of India on 31.7.2003. The Terms of Reference of the National Nutrition Mission include reviewing the National Nutrition Policy and National Plan of Action on Nutrition, existing strategies adopted by various Ministries concerned with nutrition and revising them for achieving the goals set out by the mission, to put in place an effective mechanism for intersectoral coordination and a system of data collection and monitoring of the nutritional status across different regions, particularly of the vulnerable population in the country.

Reservation for poor students in Public Schools

1945. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to compel elite Public Schools to reserve a percentage of their seats for the poor and underprivileged students in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and specific objects of the proposed move;

(c) whether the matter has been discussed with various States and concerned organisations dealing with problems of education and educational administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) A Draft Free and Compulsory Education for Children Bill, which is proposed to be enacted as a follow up to the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, has been circulated to State Governments for comments and has also been placed on the Department's website for inviting suggestion from the public. One of the provisions in the Draft Bill envisages an obligation on recognised but not substantially aided schools to give admission to children in the age group of 6—14 years from families below proverty line, if so directed upto a maximum of 20% of the total strength of the school.

Responses to the draft Bill are still being received

Violation of girls rights

1946. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women in association with Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women organized a public hearing on 29th October, 2003 in Chennai on "Violation of Girls Rights"'

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Commission; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government for the protection of Child Rights and to award punishments in cases of torture and sexual abuse of children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of measures have been recommended particularly for the State Government for the protection and welfare of children.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government for the protection of Child Rights and to award punishments in cases of torture and sexual abuse of children

(c) Action to protect child rights is undertaken by several Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India such as:

(i) Department of Women and Child Development